

In the Claims

1. (Currently Amended) A shifter base housing, shift rod and operator cable assembly, said assembly comprising:

an operator cable having an outer case containing a movable ~~wire~~ core wire;

a shifter base housing defining an interior space;

an opening extending through a wall of said shifter base housing and into said interior space;

a sleeve having one end extending into said opening, said sleeve having said operator cable secured within an other end of said sleeve;

an elastomeric isolator-seal substantially enclosing said one end of said sleeve, said isolator-seal received in said opening and compressed against one or more surfaces defined therein to seal said sleeve one end to said shifter base housing;

said operator cable outer case secured within said ~~protruding~~ other end of said sleeve, said core wire extending completely through said sleeve; ~~and~~

a shift rod extending across said interior space and attached at one end to said cable core wire, ~~said shift rod completely underlain by said shifter base housing;~~

wherein said shifter base housing has an integrally formed tubular projection defining a seat and a central opening receiving said cable core wire passed through said sleeve, and

a swivel tube having a head resting in said seat and a tubular body extending through said central opening into said interior space of said shifter base housing, said cable core wire extending through an opening in said head and within said tubular body.

2. (Currently Amended) The assembly according to claim 1 wherein said **generally** opening is formed in a protrusion integrally formed on said shifter base housing, and said isolator-seal is held in said opening by a cap held on an end of said protrusion.

3. (Previously presented) The assembly according to claim 2 wherein said cap has one or more features snap fit over a feature on said protrusion.

4. (Previously presented) The assembly according to claim 2 wherein said cap has an opening within which said sleeve protrudes in extending into said opening.

5. (Previously presented) The assembly according to claim 4 wherein said isolator-seal has a reduced diameter end which protrudes out through said cap opening.

6. (Previously presented) The assembly according to claim 1 further including a tubular plastic insert in said sleeve one end inserted within said generally cylindrical opening, said cable core wire passing through said tubular plastic insert.

7. (Previously presented) The assembly according to claim 6 wherein said tubular plastic insert has a flange extending radially out and abutting one end of said sleeve.

8. (Previously presented) The assembly according to claim 1 wherein said sleeve has a flange formed therein extending out into surrounding portions of said isolator-seal.

9. (Currently Amended) The assembly according to claim 1 wherein said ~~shifter base housing has a~~ seat is partially spherical, ~~seat formed therein~~ aligned with said opening extending through a wall of said shifter base housing and located inwardly therefrom, ~~and having a central opening receiving said cable wire core~~ wire passed through said sleeve, said seat facing back towards said sleeve.

10. (Canceled)

11. (Currently Amended) The assembly according to claim ~~10~~ 9 wherein said isolator-seal has an inner end formed with a partially spherical seat facing said partially spherical seat formed in said shifter base housing, said swivel tube ~~ball~~ head captured therebetween so as to accommodate tilting of said swivel tube.

12. (Previously presented) The assembly according to claim 11 wherein said shift rod is slidable in said swivel tube body.

13. (Canceled)

14. (Currently Amended) The assembly according to claim ~~13~~ 1 wherein said tubular projection has outwardly flaring inner wall allowing tilt of said swivel tube, and said swivel tube has a reduced diameter land adjacent to said ball head.

15. (Previously presented) The assembly according to claim 1 wherein said sleeve is constructed of steel, said sleeve crimped to said operator cable case.

16. (Currently Amended) A method of assembling an operator cable having an outer case and an inner core wire movable therein to a shifter base housing and a shift rod for operating an automotive drive unit, said shifter base housing defining an interior space closed with a cover, said method comprising:

integrally forming an opening ~~through~~ in a wall of said shifter base housing extending into said interior space, **and providing a projection formed in one-piece with said wall, said projection defining a seat and a central opening aligned with said opening;**

positioning a swivel tube against said seat with a tubular body of said swivel tube extending through said central opening;

substantially enclosing one end of a sleeve with an elastomeric isolator-seal;

inserting said one end of said sleeve and isolator-seal into said opening;

compressing and holding said isolator-seal against one or more surfaces in said opening to cause said sleeve one end to be sealed to said shifter base housing;

passing said operator cable into an opposite end of said sleeve and fixing said outer case within said opposite end of said sleeve;

extending said inner core wire through said sleeve and into **said swivel tube that extends into** said interior space of said shifter base housing member; and,

attaching said inner core wire to one end of said shift rod, said shift rod extending from said core wire across said interior space, said shift rod completely underlain by said shifter housing base.

17. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 16 wherein said isolator-seal is compressed against said one or more shoulders in said opening by installing a cap against an end of said isolator-seal and locking said cap to a protrusion formed on said shifter base housing.

18. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 16 ~~further including forming a wherein the seat is~~ partially spherical ~~seat aligned with said opening on an inner portion of said shifter base housing, said seat having a concentric opening, and wherein the method further includes~~ passing a body of ~~[[a]]~~ the swivel tube through said ~~concentric central~~ opening to bring a partially spherical head portion on an end of said swivel tube into abutment with said seat, forming a partially spherical seat on an end of said isolator-seal facing said seat formed on said shifter base housing inner portion and forced against said head of said swivel tube, and extending said cable core wire through an opening in said isolator seat and swivel tube head, and into said swivel tube.

19. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 16 further including installing a tubular plastic insert into a portion of the length of an inner passage in said sleeve and passing said cable ~~wire~~-core wire through an opening extending along said tubular plastic insert.

20. (Original) The method according to claim 17 wherein said cap is locked to said protrusion by snap fitting a feature formed on said cap to a feature formed on said protrusion.

21. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 19 further including forming a flange on said insert and also on a portion of said sleeve enclosed in said isolator-seal acting to compress said isolator-seal when said cable is operated.

22. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 18 further including inserting one end of said shift rod into said swivel tube and slidably fitting said shift rod therein.